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Southend-on-Sea City Council

Executive Director (Strategy & Change):

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Dear Councillor,

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY 2025

Please find attached the questions from members of the public, together with the respective responses from the relevant Cabinet Member(s), at the meeting of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 13th February 2025.

Kind regards,

Stephanie Cox
Principal Democratic Services Officer

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SOUTHEND ON SEA CITY COUNCIL
Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee
13th February 2025

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Question 1. From Mr Webb to Councillor M Terry (Cabinet Member for Community Safety)

My question relates to the number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents reported to the Community Safety Unit (indicator CP02.01).

The decrease in reports from November is consistent with a seasonal dip in previous years, however we have seen a small increase year on year with 533 ASB reports for this current financial year (April-December), compared to 518 ASB reports for the same period in 2023/24.

Based on historical data from the past three years, it is likely an increase in reports will occur in the next few months with numbers typically rising in February and March. This trend suggests ASB reports will gradually increase as we move towards the spring months.

What strategies and procedures will be put into place by the Southend Council and the community Safety team to tackle rising antisocial behaviour in February and March, spring time?

Response:

The Community Safety Unit has been granted additional funding this financial year (24/25), which has been utilised to boost the Unit's capacity both in terms of officers on patrol and backroom support. This will provide greater flexibility between on the ground visibility and effective enforcement, whilst still managing the increasing administration of any additional reporting.

In addition, the Unit has been working hard to engage with the public around Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), and how to report

incidents, which might cause some increases in ASB reports in the short term.

Question 2. from Ms Mitchell to Councillor M Sadza (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Healthier Communities)

Within the corporate plan there is an item that states good progress has been made against all actions so far in the three-year equality, diversity and inclusion improvement plan.

I have been unable to find this particular document to explore it further, and there only appears to be reference to outcomes from 2022/23 on the website. I would ask therefore if the numbers of complaints involving equality, diversity and inclusion have reduced in the first two years of the plan and how residents can access the plan and provide feedback.

Response:

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion improvement plan is an internal document for our employees. We will continue to report progress through the corporate delivery plan, which aligns to our Corporate Plan.

Our external equalities statement and objectives are published for residents on the Council's website. The statement and objectives are due for review in 2026 and we will be working with residents and partners to update these.

We have seen a reduction in complaints reporting alleged discrimination over the past 2 years. In 2023/24 we received 10 of these complaints and in 2024/25 we received 6 complaints.